

§ 10.308

19 CFR Ch. I (4–1–03 Edition)

computerized format or such other format as is approved by the Headquarters, U.S. Customs Service, Office of Trade Operations, Washington, DC 20229. Alternative formats must contain the same information and certification set forth on Customs Form 353.

(2) *Blanket certifications.* A blanket Exporter's Certificate of Origin, not to exceed a period of 12 months, issued for goods claimed as originating goods under the Agreement, can only be used if the certifying exporter is able to verify that the goods in each shipment to be covered by the blanket certification actually qualify for treatment under the Agreement. A blanket certification does not allow an exporter to average its costs over the blanket certification period in order to establish that the exported goods meet the criteria for originating goods under the Agreement. Under §10.308, the exporter must retain supporting records that will permit a review of the eligibility of the goods in each shipment covered by a blanket certification.

(e) *Exceptions to documentation requirements.* Exceptions to the foregoing documentation requirements may be authorized at the discretion of the port director in the following circumstances:

(1) *Exception for informal entries.* As set forth in paragraphs (e)(1) (i) and (ii) of this section, an Exporter's Certificate of Origin may be waived in connection with an entry entitled to informal entry procedures as authorized in §§143.21 and 143.22 of this chapter if:

(i) *Commercial goods which qualify for informal entry.* The invoice, or an appropriate Customs release document, for commercial goods which qualify both for informal entry and a preference must include the following statement, on the invoice or appropriate Customs document:

I hereby certify that the goods described herein are eligible for a preference based upon the rules of origin enumerated in the United States-Canada Free-Trade Agreement.

Check One:

- ( ) Manufacturer  
( ) Supplier  
( ) Exporter

Signature

Title

Date:

(ii) *Noncommercial goods which qualify for informal entry.* The importation of goods from Canada by a person for non-commercial use may be exempt from documentation requirements if the goods are legally marked "Made in Canada", or it can otherwise be shown that they are originating goods under the Agreement and there is no evidence to the contrary.

(2) *Waiver of evidence of direct shipment.* The port director may waive the submission of evidence of direct shipment when otherwise satisfied, taking into consideration the kind and value of the goods, that the goods were, in fact, imported directly from Canada, and that they otherwise qualify for a preference in accordance with the Agreement.

[T.D. 89-3, 53 FR 51766, Dec. 23, 1988, as amended by T.D. 92-8, 57 FR 2455, Jan. 22, 1992]

§ 10.308 Records retention.

(a) *Importer.* The importer of record shall retain the exporter's certificate of origin required by §10.307(d) for a period of 5 years and it must be made available upon request by the appropriate Customs official.

(b) *Exporter.* Any person who exports, or who knowingly causes to be exported, any merchandise to Canada shall make, keep, and render for examination and inspection, such records (including certifications of origin or copies thereof), which pertain to such exportation for a period of 5 years from the date of exportation. In the event that the appropriate Customs official requests submission of the records, they shall be submitted directly to the requesting official.

§ 10.309 Verification of documentation.

Any evidence of country of origin or of direct shipment submitted in support of a preference under the Agreement shall be subject to such verification as the appropriate Customs official may deem necessary. If the U.S. importer or U.S. exporter or their agent does not provide the information requested by the appropriate Customs officer, the port director may